



MVSKOKE NEWS

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MMIP AWARENESS DAY PROCLAIMED AS MAY 5

AWARENESS OF MMIP EFFORTS ARE NOW FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okmulgee, Okla. - The Muscogee Nation Center for Victim Services walked through the MCN Complex on May 5 to honor, remember and raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. On the same day, the U.S. Department of Justice proclaimed the day as National MMIP Awareness Day.

The statement from the U.S. Department of Justice details the recognition of the day, as well as statistics on the MMIP crisis.

"Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day calls on our nation to pause and honor the loved ones who have gone missing or who have been the victims of violent crime," U.S. Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco said in the proclamation.

According to MCN CVS Health and Wellness Coordinator Morgan James, spreading awareness is important when it comes to MMIP.

MCN works closely with MMIP chapters across the state to spread awareness.

President Biden released a proclamation the day prior.

"Indian Country has been gripped by an epidemic of missing or murdered Indigenous people, whose cases far too often go unsolved," President Biden stated. "Families have been left investigating disappearances on their own, demanding justice for their loved ones, and grieving pieces of their souls."

The proclamation outlined the work his administration has done on the issue, with a big credit going toward U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland for her role.

The proclamation follows the two-year anniversary of Haaland's announcement of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Missing and Murdered Unit, which was developed to focus specifically on cases involving Native American victims.

In 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing Ameri-

can Indian and Alaska Native women. The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System did not accurately reflect the amount of reports made. Only 116 individuals had been logged into the NamUS.

These numbers shed a light on the crisis Native women face across the United States. This later opened the door for awareness on the numbers of Native men who have either gone missing or have been murdered.

This defined the problem as a public health crisis.

In 2021, U.S. District Attorney Trent Shores disclosed information on Mvskoke Radio stating that in Oklahoma there are more cases of missing Native men than women.

According to the BIA website, current statistics show that approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) throughout the U.S. Approximately 2,700 cases of murder and nonnegligent homicide offenses have been reported to the federal government's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

The BIA estimates that there are approximately 4,200 miss-



MCN hosted a walk through the tribal complex for awareness of MMIP. (Courtesy: Muscogee Nation)

ing and murdered cases that have gone unsolved.

MMIP cases can be viewed on the BIA website.

These cases remain unsolved due to the lack of available resources for local law enforcement agencies. This includes investigative resources to identify new information from witness testimony, re-examining new or retained material evidence, as well as reviewing fresh activities of suspects.

The first congressional reso-

lution to declare May 5 as MMIP Day was issued in 2017. The date of May 5 was selected after the Montana congressional delegation persuaded the U.S. Senate to pass a resolution declaring the national day of awareness to honor the birthday of Hanna Harris, a 21-year-old member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe who went missing on July 4, 2013 and never returned home.

For more information regarding MMIP awareness, visit: www.bia.gov.



Bacone College is a higher education institution that has a long-established reputation for serving and educating Native American students. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

BACONE ACCREDITATION COMPLAINT FILED

FORMER STAFF ALLEGES MISMANAGEMENT

by **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Muskogee, Okla. - Bacone College was established in 1880 and has historically been an institution that educates Native Americans.

The college recently lost a \$1 million judgment in Muskogee District Court because it did not pay a construction company for work done on its facilities.

A complaint concerning Bacone College's accreditation was filed with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

HLC is an independent corporation that grants accreditation to degree-granting, post-secondary educational institutions in the United States. Accreditation is necessary to ensure that credits acquired by students at a college can be transferred to other institutions, and are of a certain level of quality.

HLC has a process in place for students, faculty, staff or members of the public to submit a complaint if they

believe that there are problems with the institution's ability to meet the criteria of accreditation.

Complaint Letter

Mvskoke Media was provided a copy of the complaint filed by the former Bacone Senior Director of Student Support Services Kendall Scott (Kickapoo).

The 81-page complaint paints a picture of an institution in crisis. It contains examples of Bacone faculty, staff, and students violating policy without repercussions.

The complaint claims that Bacone's finances are in ruins, with payroll, benefits and basic utilities not being paid for months, if at all.

Events in the complaint cover the time range spanning from March 2021 to March 2023.

The complaint alleges that Interim President Dr. Nicky Michael (Lenape) dissolved all of the school's committees except the executive committee.

Incidents involving stu-

dents' belongings being damaged or stolen are detailed in the complaint.

It also alleges that Bacone relied heavily on recruiting student athletes, with Bacone college coaches regularly promising amenities that they knew the school could not provide.

In addition, the complaint contains the resignation letter of Rhonda Barron (Chickasaw), an educator at Bacone. The letter reads as follows.

"Without regret, I am submitting my letter of resignation. In the 22 years I have been an Educator, I have never experienced the lack of transparency I have experienced at Bacone College.

Since the day I walked into Bacone, I felt the protective need to safeguard all that Bacone stood for. The history behind Bacone and the Native Indian students that have come here since 1880. Since the day I walked into Bacone, I have also been immersed in a political power struggle that has affected students and staff alike. This fight was not mine. I was constantly being approached to side against the administration at that time (Ferlin Clark's). From the very first day, it felt like an explosive place to work. Since the removal of Dr. Clark, it has only grown worse. (More details of current administration abuse will be sent to appropriate agencies.)

I can no longer stand by and see the injustice I have witnessed here. From the lack of resources to the mismanagement of students, finances, and staff. The deceit is deep. I am ashamed for not stepping up earlier and saying something sooner.

To the Board:

You are responsible for making Bacone something to be proud of. I am embarrassed to tell people I work at Bacone.

BACONE

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The June 1 graduate edition has been pushed back to June 15. (Shutterstock)

JUNE 1 GRADUATE PROFILE EDITION PUSHED BACK TO JUNE 15 EDITION

THE DECISION WAS MADE DUE TO UNFORESEEN STAFFING SHORTAGES

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

Okmulgee, Okla. - The June 1 graduate edition of the Mvskoke newspaper has been pushed back to the June 15 edition. This decision was made due to the high volume of graduate profile submissions, as well as unforeseen staffing shortages.

We apologize for the inconvenience, we know that you as readers expect nothing less than the highest standard for your tribal newspaper. It is a high honor, a sacred privilege and a tremendous responsibility to recognize the Mvskoke graduates every spring for their academic achievements.

However, at this time we are unable to properly deliver the graduate edition to our readers for the June 1 edition.

Although the graduate edition of the newspaper is shifting from June 1 to June 15, the Mvskoke Media is still no longer accepting graduate profile submissions for 2023.

We appreciate your patience, however we understand the frustration of waiting an extra two weeks to see your beloved Mvskoke graduate appear in your trusted tribal newspaper. For any further questions, call (918) 732-7720, or send an email to info@mvskokemedia.com.



From the bottom left Suzanne Glass (Mvskoke), Addesen Glass (Mvskoke), and Jake Glass (Mvskoke) are seated as they pose for pictures on Addesen's signing day. Standing behind the Glass family are Addesen's high school golf coach, and soon-to-be college coach. (Courtesy: Mary Crawford)

MVSKOKE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR’S FUTURE IS ABOVE PAR

ADDESEN GLASS SIGNS ON TO PLAY COLLEGIATE GOLF AT USAO

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

Muskogee, Okla. - For Addesen Glass’ (Mvskoke) family, golfing is a sport that brings them together. It is a sport where she has spent countless hours perfecting her swing, and has allowed her to bond with loved ones. All of Addesen Glass’ hard work finally paid off when she recently signed her letter of commitment to play golf at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha.

“It felt great, it felt good to have all the support there,” Addesen Glass said. “Finally being able to sign and have it in official documentation was really nice.”

On her signing day, Addesen

Glass was supported by her family and golf coaches. Her parents, Jake (Mvskoke) and Suzanne Glass (Mvskoke) were present to witness the big step Addesen took in her career. For Jake Glass, it was a moment that meant a lot to him personally.

“To see your daughter commit to do that, something I love and to see that she has the same passion is, I think, clearly is really exciting for me,” Jake Glass said.

Addesen Glass’ golf career began when her dad took her golfing during the summers as a young child. She would go on to sign up for golf camps at the country club in Muskogee.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Addesen Glass’ freshman season on the links was canceled. Her sophomore year saw a

new team of fresh faces. While it took the team a while to gain back the momentum they had previously experienced, Addesen Glass said they would find themselves once again making regionals, and eventually this year’s state title. Her team saw quite a change in just four short years.

Addesen Glass has kept herself busy on and off the links throughout her high school career. In school, you would find her taking advanced STEM and concurrent college courses.

“Academically it’s been a lot of concurrent classes and a bunch of studying, a lot of science classes,” Glass said. “I’ve been interning at a hospital so having those AP (Advanced Placement) physics courses have really helped.”

Among Addesen Glasses’ treasured memories from her high school career are those that came from the golf course. According to Addesen Glass, her most memorable experience is winning the two playoffs required for the state title.

“We kind of came in as the underdogs and did not expect that to happen,” Addesen Glass remarked. “Definitely making that last putt and then looking at my mom and saying ‘we just won state!’ was a big thing for me.”

While she has enjoyed her time playing golf at the high school level, Addesen is ready for whatever is to come next in her career.

“It’s bittersweet but I am really excited for what’s to come, I’ve been waiting for this moment for a while now,” Addesen Glass said. “I’m more just excited than anything.”

Addesen Glass was selected as the valedictorian of the Hilldale class of 2023. According to her, she is planning to major in biology, and minor in cultural studies in college with the intention of going to medical school after her undergraduate studies are complete.

BACONE

Continued from Page 1

The buildings are rotting in front of our eyes, yet we still charge students to live in sub-standard buildings with mold. The library can’t get library software to actually check out books and half the collection has been left to decay in the basement of Samuel Richard’s Hall. Bacone can’t get credit at local stores because they know you don’t pay your bills.

You have the power to step up and see what is happening, yet I have never met any of you. You fail as a board of Directors. You have not invested in making Bacone a better place to work and attend as students. I frankly don’t understand what purpose you do serve. You hear what you want to hear, but you do not come and see what you would see.

As a Chickasaw Citizen and a proud Native American, I choose to stand up now and say something when I see something.

A detailed letter of the abuse going on at Bacone will be submitted to the Chickasaw Times, Muskogee Phoenix, and to the Chickasaw Nation immediately following the submission of this resignation letter.”

Barron submitted her letter to an online news outlet, “Muskogee Now”, who published it under the headline “Educator alleges crumbling conditions, warring staff, financial struggles at Bacone” on April 26, 2022.

Alleged Clery Act Violations

The complaint also details how Bacone was fined \$200,000 for Clery Act violations.

The Clery Act is a federal law that requires colleges and universities to report campus crime data, support victims of violence and publicly outline the policies and procedures they have to improve campus safety.

Mvskoke Media contacted the Department of Education, but was unable to verify that Bacone was fined.

Mvskoke Media spoke with Bacone Interim President Dr. Nicky Michael and Chief Operations Officer Dr. Leroy Thompson about the allegations outlined in the report.

“We definitely have had previous administrations that have put the school in jeopardy and there is a very large amount of debt,” Michael said.

Michael had previously served as Bacone’s Executive Director of Indigenous Studies and Curriculum under President Ferlin Clark, from August 3, 2020 until March 2021 when she was placed in the Interim President position.

“When I came into the position, mind you, I was the chair of the American Indian studies, I was asked to step into this position, I did not seek it, and I really wouldn’t wish this on anybody. It’s a very huge task and it’s been one day after another, kind of unearthing and un-layering of some of the

past wrongdoings and misadministration.” Michael said.

Scott, author of the HLC complaint, spoke to Mvskoke Media about why he filed the complaint.

“When I left Bacone College I was getting a lot of emails and text messages from students saying ‘hey, they’re not taking care of us you know’. When Ferlin (Dr. Clark) was in charge we had shared governance, executive committee and a committee for student violations. But when Nicky got in charge she disbanded all the committees except for the executive committee,” Scott said. “Basically Nicky came in and disassembled all of the regulations that we typically follow for the HLC, during the probation period we were put on probation and we needed to rewrite all of our policies and procedures and we spent the whole summer prior to Ferlin leaving rewriting the faculty handbooks and (student) handbook. We had rewritten them and then we didn’t follow them. As soon as Nicky got in charge we didn’t follow the policy and procedures for the student handbook and the faculty handbook.”

Bacone had previously been put on accreditation probation by HLC in February 2019.

The college spent the next 3 years working to attain HLC compliance and officially regained accredited status in February 2022.

According to Scott, Dr. Clark’s leadership as Bacone President was instrumental in getting Bacone off of accreditation probation with the Higher Learning Commission.

HLC has responded to Scott’s compliant with a letter stating;

“Upon initial review of your complaint, HLC determined that the matter regarding Bacone College raises potential concerns regarding the institution’s compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and certain other HLC requirements. Due to these potential concerns, HLC will conduct a further review of the institution based on your complaint. HLC will forward your complaint to the institution for formal review and response. The institution will then have 30 days to respond to the concerns in writing and provide appropriate supporting evidence.

HLC will review the institution’s response to determine what action, if any, is needed based on the evidence. The Commission, however, is unable to provide any further updates on the status of the review of your complaint beyond the information included here. If HLC’s continued review of this complaint leads to a formal evaluation of the institution, including the scheduling of an Interim Report, Focused Visit, or other such evaluation, it will be published on the institution’s Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS).”

Mvskoke Media will have continuing coverage of this developing story.



The Supreme Court of the United States recently made a decision in the Twitter, Inc. v. Taamneh case. The decision determined the liability of social media platforms for content produced by individual users. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

SCOTUS RULES ON TWITTER CASE

DECISION STATES THAT THE PLATFORM DID NOT “AID AND ABET” ISIS

by **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Washington, D.C. - The United States Supreme Court issued decisions in Gonzalez v. Google and Twitter, Inc. v. Taamneh on May 18.

Both of these cases had been previously covered by Mvskoke Media because decisions in these cases had the potential to impact our online news delivery.

An in-depth look at each case was also published in the March 15, 2023 edition of the Mvskoke

News.

In an unanimous opinion written by Chief Justice Clarence Thomas, the court ruled that Twitter did not “aid and abet” Islamic State terrorists by allowing them to use the service.

According to the opinion, “As alleged by plaintiffs, defendants designed virtual platforms and knowingly failed to do ‘enough’ to remove ISIS-affiliated users and ISIS related content—out of hundreds of millions of users worldwide and an immense ocean of content—from their platforms. Yet, plaintiffs have failed to allege that defendants intentionally provided any substantial aid to the Reina attack or otherwise consciously participated in the Reina attack—much less that defendants so pervasively and systematically assisted ISIS as to render them liable for every ISIS attack. Plaintiffs accordingly have failed to state a claim under §2333(d) (2). We therefore reverse the judgment of the Ninth Circuit.”

In a related case before the court, Gonzalez v. Google, SCOTUS ordered that case be remanded to the Ninth Circuit to be considered in light of the decision in Twitter v. Taamneh.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or email: info@mvskokemedia.com.



BIG DECLARATIONS, EAGLE FEATHERS BANNED, ENTERTAINMENT OPENINGS

PRESIDENT BIDEN, POPE FRANCIS MAKE GOOD ANNOUNCEMENTS; GOVERNOR STITT VETOES ANOTHER ONE, STUPID

by **GARY FIFE**
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Okmulgee, Oklahoma—At the beginning of May the White House issued a proclamation observing Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day. President Joe Biden said the U.S. Attorney’s Office would “better prioritize” this crisis and create a new position that would be devoted to ensuring those affected would have a voice. O.K., let’s see how that takes shape and addresses these tragedies. Deeds, not words.

Pope Francis has added

another step towards healing the wounds created by the historical Catholic Church. The Pope said that “talks were underway to return colonial-era artifacts in the Vatican Museum that were acquired from indigenous peoples...” Yahoo News reported, in an airborne press conference that the Pontiff himself said, “The Seventh Commandment comes to mind: If you steal something you have to give it back.”

Someone who isn’t a Pope, but acts like one lately, has added Governor Stitt’s veto to three bills that Natives favor. He is refusing to sign a bill re-authorizing the

state Indian education office, a bill allowing for Native Students to wear tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies, and legislation requiring sex offenders to submit tribal registration.

To take this issue a step further...Broken Arrow school officials prevented a student from wearing an eagle plume, damaging the feather in the process. That will be nothing compared to the damage to the school’s reputation. See ya’ll in court. Mvskoke Principal Chief David Hill has issued a response to the regalia part of the issue. On May 2, he said, “It’s time that once and for all, we do the

right thing by these students and respect their family choices. We’re disappointed that the Governor is standing in the way of that with his veto.”

This one happened in early April, but worth noting. The New York Board of Regents has officially banned Native names and images, says the Albany Times-Union. The idea popped up and was pushed along in 2001. There is a lot of support for the action, but one can expect the usual flurry of lawsuits.

Another sports announcer has shot his mouth off over a Native name and wish he hadn’t. Zach

Whitecloud is from the Sioux Valley North Dakota Nation and plays as a defenseman for the Las Vegas Golden Knights. During a game against the Edmonton Oilers, ESPN anchor John Anderson commented about Whiteclouds’ name. Anderson said, “Zach Whitecloud, what kind of name is Whitecloud? Great name if you’re a toilet paper.” Anderson did apologize the next day, “It’s my job to be prepared and know the backgrounds of the players, and I blew it...”

It’s mid-May and still no decision on the Freedmen issue from our tribal courts. It’s probably going to be announced right after this column is published? Maybe the U.S. Supreme Court will get off it’s backside and decide the Native cases before it.

There is a shining spot in the news for Natives and especially the Ponca Tribe. In 1869, Chief Standing Bear fought a landmark legal battle in which the court ruled that Standing Bear was a “person” with the rights and protections of other citizens. In a recent action, the U.S. Postal Service has issued a new postage stamp in the Ponca Chiefs’ honor. By the way, it’s a “forever” stamp. Let’s see if that value lasts longer than the treaties the government has signed.

More good stuff...Season 3 of “Reservation Dogs” is set for August 2 on Hulu. It’s going to be interesting to see where the series goes after the story has shown loss and achievement, disappointments and fear, plus incredibly insightful humor. “Killers of the Flower Moon” will be opening October 6 in theaters. The story of the murders of Osage people for their oil rights will also stream on Apple TV later.

The 2023 Mvskoke Festival is coming up at the end of June. Ready for it? Yes!

The MCN Tribal election is coming up in November. Ready for it? No.

Hvtvm.

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The Old Morris Highway Bridge Project is now complete. (Morgan Taylor/ MM)

FEDERAL ROADS PROGRAM FULLY FUNDS COMMUNITY PROJECT

MCN STEPPED IN TO FUND A HIGHLY TRAVELED BRIDGE IN THE COMMUNITY

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okmulgee, Okla. - The Old Morris Highway Bridge is now open after a nearly two-year closure with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 3.

Premier Steel manufactured the fast-cast bridge that was delivered on March 15.

Crossttimbers Consulting designed the bridge. McGuire Brothers contracted the project, which was completed in less than two months once construction began.

Principal Chief David Hill is grateful for the partnerships between the Nation, county, and community for projects of this caliber.

“It’s all about public safety,” Chief Hill said. “We have a lot of Creek citizens and non-Creeks who live down this road and we do our best to help each other to make it better and safer for everyone to travel.”

An estimated 1100 vehicles travel the road daily, according to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Federal Roads Program Manager David Ford.

“That’s very busy,” Ford said. “It means a lot to the community.”

Okmulgee County Commissioner David Walker said the bridge had sustained significant damage in May 2021.

“The culvert’s dislocation washed out and the county came in and we took 2,000 pound blocks and tried to get it back going,”

Walker said. “We thought we had it under control.”

In May 2022, the area experienced a severe flood with rainfall exceeding 14 inches over a period of three days. That caused the bridge to be swept out by water once again.

All that was left of the bridge were guardrails on either side of the two-lane road with a large gap where the water flows.

The highly traveled side road remained closed for the next year.

“I believe that was the third time,” Ford said. “But it was the last time.”

According to Ford, the county lacked funding to properly fix the road. That’s when the MCN stepped in.

“Federal Roads thought it would be a good opportunity,” Ford said.

The program spends anywhere from \$10-14 million annually on roadway infrastructure within the Muscogee Reservation.

“We are glad we could help get this bridge open,” Ford said.

Ford has sent an invitation to the county commissioners within the Muscogee boundaries. This opportunity will allow them to pick a bridge in their district to be funded and completed by the program.

With more bridge funding available, Ford claims reservation residents can expect to see new bridges throughout the reservation soon.

MCN PAGEANT DATE SET FOR JUNE 3

THE EVENT WILL BE HOSTED AT THE CRYSTAL THEATRE

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okemah, Okla. - Contestants for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant will compete against each other at the Crystal Theatre at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 3.

According to MCN Royalty Coordinator LuAnn Bear, citizens have requested the pageant to make its presence in the southern region for many years. This year’s venue has the capacity to seat over 200 people. Bear is hoping to fill each of those seats.

“We are encouraging our citizens in that area to come by and visit,” Bear said.

She claims there were immediate reactions of excitement for the pageant’s location announcement.

The Crystal Theatre is an old movie theater that was originally built in the 1920s. It served the area for nearly a century before closing in 2020. It was recently purchased by the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town headquartered in Okemah in 2022.

Bear said it is a much different setting than what the pageant is used to. It still resembles an old movie theater.

“We are thankful to rent the space from them,” Bear said.

Last year’s pageant was held at



Chenoa Barnett is running for Miss Muscogee Nation this year. She is currently the 2022 Jr. Miss Muscogee. (Courtesy: LuAnn Bear)

The River Spirit Casino and Resort Ballroom. Previously, the pageant has been held virtually due to the Covid pandemic. The most common site has been the Mvskoke Dome.

Contestants have undergone etiquette training, Mvskoke language classes, talent practicing, and even staging for the pageant itself during the Royalty Ready and Royalty Retreat events.

There are four contestants for the Jr. Miss Muscogee Nation title and one contestant for the Miss Muscogee Nation title.



The 2023 Rez Games will be held at the Claude Cox Omniplex and Mvskoke Dome. (Sutterstock)

MCN RECREATION DEPARTMENT SET TO HOST REZ GAMES

REZ GAMES WILL BE ADDING A VIDEO GAME COMPONENT TO THIS YEAR’S EVENTS

by MORGAN TAYLOR
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okmulgee, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Recreation Department is hosting the third annual Rez Games at the Claude Cox Omniplex from June 9-10.

This year, the games are adding a video game competition to the list of events, according to Athletic Coordinator Lucas Taylor.

The events will start the evening of June 9, the video game standoff will consist of different Playstation 5 games operating in various rooms inside the Mvskoke Dome.

Taylor said that as new generations become more digital savvy,

the department had become curious as to what the event may generate in terms of participation.

“We want to throw it out there and see if we can get some interest generated that way,” he said. “It’s something different, we will see how it goes.”

The idea derived from Taylor’s personal experience from watching his son’s interest grow in video games. It is a form of competition Taylor’s son has grown quite a talent for.

“We have a lot of kids nowadays that don’t like to play sports, but they like to play video games,” he said.

Taylor learned that there are many opportunities out there for gamers including scholarships and careers.

“There’s a niche out there for people that don’t physically get on the courts but digitally while still being able to compete,” he said.

The competition will feature two games and two age groups.

The NBA 2K23 competition will be available for 11-14 year olds and 15-18 year olds. Registration is \$30 per team. The competition will admit up to ten teams.

The Call of Duty: Cold War competition will be for ages 18 and over. Registration is \$45 per team. The competition will admit up to 16 teams.

Prizes will vary, and will include gift cards to purchase gaming equipment.

As the Rez Games grow, the department seeks to cater to all citizens and other members of the community.

The games were first held during the Covid pandemic to give citizens an opportunity to stay involved in sports activities in

Jr. Miss Chenoa Barnett is the only contestant competing for the Miss Muscogee title. She will still participate in the pageant show, but will assume the Miss title without competition.

“She did great as a Jr. Miss, so I know she will be a great Miss,” Bear said.

Following in the footsteps of Miss Muscogee Nation Tema Yargee, Barnett’s role will develop into a “big sister” mentor role to the Jr. Miss title winner. Her experience in the Jr. title will help her develop these skills as the higher role.

There were late inquiries of the Miss Muscogee Nation title, but unfortunately Bear claims she could not accept them.

“Deadlines are important so we can get everything done in time,” Bear said.

The pageant kicks off the annual Festival activities each year for the month of June.

Citizens can expect to see the pageant winners in the Festival parade.

Bear is inviting all former royalty to join in the parade this year.

The royalty duo will immediately be attending Festival events and other tribal nations’ pageants as well as many other events throughout the year-long reign.

According to Bear, the royal pair will average about 12 to 14 events monthly.

She claims it is a great experience for the girls for travel and educational purposes.

For more information call LuAnn Bear at 539-286-4695.



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A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Regular Session was held May 20 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

MCN HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SET TO RECEIVE \$2.5M IN RELIEF

REPATRIATION AGREEMENT RETURNS THOUSANDS OF HUMAN REMAINS TO MCN

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

Okmulgee, Okla. – A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Regular Session meeting was held in person and teleconference May 20 at the Mound Building.

The National Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 23-043 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Lea Ann Nix to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board. Representative Joyce C. Deere sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 13-1.

Nix’s term will begin upon confirmation and will expire on June 1, 2028.

TR 23-044 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Transfer of Control NAGPRA Agreement for Ancestors and Fundery Objects from Moundville Archaeological Site with the University of Alabama. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 14-0.

UA has possession of 10,245 individuals of Native American ancestry, as well as 1,520 associated funerary objects excavated from the Moundville archaeological site in Hale and Tuscaloosa Counties, and Alabama. UA has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between those remains and funerary objects to the present day Muskogean-speaking Indian Tribes. MCN has entered into a joint repatriation claim for these remains with other Native American tribes.

TR 23-045 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending TR 19-076 (A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to suspend all special appropriations and donations) as amended by TR 20-150, TR 21-080, TR 22-128, TR 22-143, TR 22-150, TR 22-155 and TR 23-170. Representative Sandra Golden sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 14-0.

TR 19-076 is amended to read as follows: a one time donation to You Can! Inc. if NCA 23-033 is enacted. This follows other special exceptions regarding special appropriations and donations if certain laws are enacted.

TR 23-046 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the method of allocation for the nation’s proportional share of funding for housing and urban development funds and the FY - 2024 Indian Housing Block Grant. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the bill, which was adopted unanimously 14-0.

The Nation and the tribal towns agree that it is in the best interests of the Tribal Towns, the Nation, and the Creek Citizens for HUD to use enrollment for receiving their proportional share of the needs for the Indian Housing Block Grant where the Tribal Towns receive funding based on double their enrollment. The Nation will receive the remaining portion.

TR 23-047 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Prin-

icipal Chief to execute a first amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District; Federal Railroad Administration or other U.S. Department of Transportation Agency; Palmetto Railways; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; The South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer; and the South Carolina State Ports Authority regarding the Navy Base Intermodal Facility Project in Charleston County, South Carolina. Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The MOA was intended to mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties in the area of said proposed NBIF. Palmetto Railways failed to fully perform Stipulation II.A of said MOA, in which Palmetto Railways was to monitor adversely affected historic properties for construction vibration damage during construction and for a period of two years during operation of a Navy Base Intermodal Container Transfer Facility. Each entity will work together in a collaborative effort to preserve and protect any human remains or archaeological artifacts discovered during the construction of the NBIF Project.

TR 23-048 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing Contract with Harris Contractors. Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The bill will allot for Harris Construction to construct one home for the department of housing. The total cost of the home will be \$298,617.00.

TR 23-050 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Purchase Sale Agreement for property located in Hughes County, Oklahoma. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The property and its facilities will be used to benefit the Holdenville Indian Community for a new smoke shop and additional office space.

TR 23-051 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a grant application to the Internal Revenue Service for the benefit of the Office of the Secretary of the Nation. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The bill states that the Nation is in need of providing

assistance in preparing income tax returns for individuals who are 59 and younger and that the Nation meets the eligibility requirements for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The nation will leverage \$15,000 in resources for the program.

NCA 23-030 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a new law in the Title 35, Chapter 13, subchapter 2, entitled “Tribal Grave House Assistance Program”. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The purpose of this bill is to provide a family of the deceased up to five hundred dollars to be used toward the purchase of supplies to construct a grave house. The overall authorized annual budget of \$250,000 will be used for the program and will be funded by the Comprehensive Annual Budget beginning Fiscal Year 2024.

NCA 23-031 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 6 entitled “School Clothing Program”. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The School Clothing Program will need additional funding to reflect the increased amounts beginning Fiscal Year 2024. The increased budget will reflect the changes accordingly.

NCA 23-033 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a donation to You Can! Inc. for the Okemah Summer Kids Cafe. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Golden and cosponsored by Representative Randall Hicks. It was adopted unanimously 14-0.

You Can! Inc. is a non-profit organization that oversees the Okemah Summer Kids Cafe, which is a free two month summer feeding and activities program open to all kids ages 1-18. The cafe serves 300 children, of which fifty percent identify as Muscogee (Creek) Citizens. MCN will provide a donation totaling \$2,000.

NCA 23-034 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent (10%) for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty/Trust Department FY 2023 budget. Rep. McHenry sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The Realty/Trust Department is making this budget modification request to reallocate certain funds for other necessary expenses as outlined

in the attached budget modification request.

NCA 23-035 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 23-013 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Risk Management - Arbor Care Services Fiscal Year 2023). Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The amount of \$748,445 will be appropriated from the Gaming Fund Account.

NCA 23-039 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of property located in Hughes County, Oklahoma. Rep. Marshall sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

The funding source was identified as Economic Development and Land Acquisition, and a total appropriation of \$32,000 will be used for the associated costs of the property including title insurance, title opinions, surveys, environmental studies and applicable taxes.

NCA 23-040 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the tribal workforce vocational training program to be administered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation employment and training for Fiscal Year 2023. Rep. Deere sponsored the bill, which was unanimously adopted 14-0.

According to the bill, a supplemental appropriation is needed for the Adult Work Experience program for administrative costs, client services, personnel-eta and support services. An appropriation in the amount of \$340,125 will be used toward the program.

NCA 23-042 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of fiscal relief funding for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Human Services Department. Rep. Hufft sponsored the bill, which was adopted 13-1.

The MCN National Council will expend \$2,500,000 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The funds will be used to provide assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 including food, rent, mortgage and utility assistance.

The meeting, agenda, and full legislation can be viewed at www.mcnncc.com.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee with the Business, Finance and Justice and Health, Education and Welfare Joint Committee meeting following was held on May 16 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla. (MM File)

PROPERTY FOR ADDICTION TREATMENT FACILITY POSTPONED

SMOKE SHOP AND OFFICE SPACE PURCHASED FOR THE HOLDENVILLE COMMUNITY

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okmulgee, Okla. — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare and Land, Natu-

ral Resources and Cultural-Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held, with a Business, Finance and Justice and Health, Education and Welfare Joint Committee meeting following. Both joint committee

meetings were held on May 16 at the Mound Building.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session.

HEW/LNC and BFJ/HEW addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 23-050 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a purchase sale agreement for property located in Hughes County, Okla. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 7-0.

The property and its facilities will be used to benefit the Holdenville Indian Community for a new smoke shop and additional office space.

TR 23-051 Authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a grant application to the Internal Revenue Service for the benefit of the Office of the Secretary of the Nation. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, which passed 7-0.

The Nation seeks to submit the grant application for \$15,000. The Council will

match another \$15,000 for the VITA program.

TR 23-052 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a purchase sale agreement for property located in Muskogee County, Okla. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation, it was cosponsored by Joyce Deere, which was postponed until June 16.

The property and its facilities will be used for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health for the renovation of a hospital facility currently present on the land for the purposes of an in-patient addiction recovery facility.

NCA 23-039 Appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of property located in Hughes County, Okla. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 7-0.

The funds of \$32,000 will be appropriated for TR 23-050. For subcommittee agendas and to view the full subcommittee meetings, visit: www.mcnncc.com.

NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR TCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tulsa Creek Indian Community will hold an election for the Board of Directors Officers for Vice-Chair and Sgt-of-Arms. The deadline for Letter of Intent and Background check payment fee of \$15 is due by 4:30 p.m. on July 27, 2023. The election will be held on September 28, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TCIC OFFICE MANAGER POSITION

Tulsa Creek Indian Community is in need of a Full-Time Office Manager. If you are interested, submit a resume and/or an employment application to the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. Employment applications are available at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. Resumes may be emailed to tulsacreek-communtiy@yahoo.com or faxed to 918.298-2466. Applications/resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.



The MCN National Council held an emergency meeting via teleconference April 26. (MM File)

RESOLUTION URGES OK LEGISLATURE TO OVERRIDE GOVERNOR’S VETOES

OKLAHOMA HB 2608 AND SB 429 WERE RECENTLY VETOED BY GOV. STITT

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okmulgee, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held an Emergency session via teleconference on May 11.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 23-053 Respectfully urging the Oklahoma State Legislature to override the vetoes of Oklahoma House Bill 2608 and Senate Bill 429. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 12-0.

HB 2608 would require sex offenders registered with tribal authority to also register with the state. SB 429 would allow Native American students enrolled in a public school district, public charter or technology center to wear tribal regalia at their respective graduation ceremony.

The MCN believes the

house bill veto should be overridden to share sex-offender information between state and tribal agencies for public safety reasons.

According to the bill, the MCN fully supports Native American students’ right to wear tribal regalia at a public school district, a public charter school, or a technology center graduation.

NCA 23-041 Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the Fiscal Relief Funding for the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Rep. Randolph sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 13-0.

The Mvskoke Loan Fund will utilize \$757,961 in funds to offset negative economic impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on small business.

NCA 23-042 Authorizing expenditure of Fiscal Relief Funding for the benefit of the MCN Community and Human Services Department. Representative Robert

Hufft sponsored the legislation, which was postponed until the May 20 Regular Session 13-0.

The funds will provide 2,500 Muscogee children with special needs with a one-time assistance of \$1,000. According to the bill, this is due to the fact that their households have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The total amount of funds expended from this bill is \$2,500,000.

NCA 23-043 Authorizing the expenditure of Fiscal Relief Funding for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Education Department. Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 13-0.

The funds will provide up to 5,000 Muscogee students and scholars who did not previously receive COVID-19 related assistance for technology assistance in the amount of \$850 for technology assistance. The total amount of funds expended from this bill is \$4,305,000.

NCA 23-044 Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the Fiscal Relief Finding for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) Project. Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, it was co-sponsored by Representative Galen Cloud and Rep. Gouge. The legislation was adopted 13-0.

Funding will help continue services through training, job centers, and veteran entities. The total amount of funds expended from this bill is \$464,961.

For more information visit www.mcnnn.com.



The Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee held a meeting on May 9. (MM File)

NAGPRA AGREEMENT WILL TRANSFER CONTROL OF OVER 10,000 HUMAN REMAINS

SEVEN TRIBES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE NAGPRA AGREEMENT

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okmulgee, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee session at the Mound Building on May 9.

Passed legislation is subject to Full Council approval during the Regular Session held the last Saturday of each month.

The committee addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 23-044 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Transfer of Control NAGPRA Agreement for Ancestors and Funerary objects from the Moundville Archaeological Site with the University of Alabama. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The University will transfer the control of 10,245 individuals and 1,520 associated funerary objects to the MCN and six other tribes, pursuant to the joint repatriation claim made on June 11, 2021 with the Alabama Quassarte, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, and Seminole Nation.

TR 23-046 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the Method of Allocation for the Nation’s Proportional Share of funding for Housing and Urban Development funds and FY 2024 Indian Housing Block Grant. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Service areas are overlapping for determining the needs portion of the Indian Housing Block Grant Formula. HUD communicated that if the Nations and Tribal Towns can’t agree on a method of allocation, the HUD will choose for them.

The Nation and tribal towns agree it is in their best interests for HUD to use enrollment for receiving their proportional share of needs for the grant.

TR 23-047 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a First Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement among the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District; Federal Railroad Administration or other U.S. Department of Transportation Agency; Palmetto

Railways; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer; and the South Carolina State Ports Authority regarding the Navy Base Intermodal Facility Project in Charleston County, South Carolina. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The MOA is intended to help mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties in the area. The South Carolina State Ports Authority is taking over ownership of the Navy Base Intermodal Facility Project.

TR 23-048 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing Contract with Harris Contractors. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The contract will build one home for the cost of \$298,617 from the NAHASDA Homeownership funds.

TR 23-049 Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing Contract with Emeritus Contractors. Rep. McHenry sponsored the legislation, which was postponed indefinitely 4-0.

The contract would build a Housing Annex and Payment Center for the total of \$1 million from the IHBG CARES Act funds.

NCA 23-034 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty/Trust Department FY 2023 Budget. Rep. McHenry sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The Department is making this request to reallocate certain funds for other necessary expenses.

NCA 23-035 Amending NCA 23-013 (Authorizing Supplemental Appropriation for the MCN Risk Management - Arbor Care Services Fiscal Year 2023). Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

It was amended to read, “Said funding for the vehicle shall carry forward until purchase is complete and all”. Unexpended funds appropriated by the implementation of the Act shall be returned to the Tribal Treasury and shall be available for future appropriation by the National Council. The bill will appropriate \$748,445.00 from the Gaming Fund Account.

For more information visit, www.mcnnn.com.



The Business, Finance, and Justice Committee held a meeting on May 11. (MM File)

AT-LARGE VOTING AMENDMENT POSTPONED

ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION WAS EITHER POSTPONED OR FAILED TO PASS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

Okmulgee, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Business, Finance, and Justice Committee session at the Mound Building on May 11.

Passed legislation is subject to Full Council approval during the Regular Session held the last Saturday of each month.

The committee addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCA 23-036 Amending MCNCA Title 14, Subchapter 3, entitled “Extradition of defendant subject to other jurisdiction”. Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which was unanimously postponed until the

next BFJ meeting 4-0.

The subchapter, now titled “Extradition” was rewritten to give clear guidelines to follow for defendants facing this issue.

NCA 23-037 Creating New Law in Title 37, Chapter 10 entitled “Departmental Policies and Procedures.” Representative Sandra Golden sponsored the legislation, which failed to pass 2-3.

The proposed law would have created requirements for MCN departments’ policy and procedures. This would have involved turning hard copies in the workplace subject to National Council approval.

NCA 23-038 Amend Article VI, Section 2, and Subsection (A) of the Constitution of

the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by deleting both at-large voting and an at-large representative, and replacing it with eligible registered district voting (resident and absentee) and district representation pertaining to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. Speaker William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which was postponed until the next BFJ meeting.

The change will only allow voters to vote for their declared district representative candidates while excluding at-large citizens from voting and excluding the option for an at-large representative.

Referred Legislation:

NCA 23-033 Authorizing a donation to YOU CAN! Inc. for the Okemah Summer Kids Cafe. Rep. Golden sponsored the legislation which was approved for funding. A \$2,000 donation will be made to the program.

NCA 23-040 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Tribal Workforce Vocational Training Program to be administered by the MCN Employment and Training for the Fiscal Year.

Representative Joyce Deere sponsored the legislation which was approved for funding.

An appropriation will be made in the amount of \$340,125.

Other business:

The Committee discussed Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprise and OneFire Holding LLC.

For more information visit www.mcnnn.com



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



RYJAN REININGER

RyJan is currently a junior at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. He has a brother (Jarven) who also attends to OSD as a freshman and a sister (Jasmie) who graduated at OSD in 2021. RyJan is the great grandson of Woodrow Sr. (Bird Clan) & Eleanor Brown-Sulphur (Raccoon Clan) of Eufaula, Ok and the grandson of John Reininger Sr (1976) & Sylvia Sulphur-Reininger; graduated at OSD in 1975. Son of Johnny Jr (2000) & Roshea Reininger (2001). RyJan has been involved in many after school activities and a majority of sports. This year he received the Player of the Year in 6-Man Football; broke school record in tackles per game (19=153/8) and First Team All American for Boys Basketball (Division II); rank 4th in the State for ppg prior to MaxPreps from the National

Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Association. As for this week-end, he will be heading out state for the 2023 International Seaparch Challenge after winning Mission Champions, 2nd place obstacle team, and Excellence Award Winners in Nationals. In RyJan's sophomore year he was awarded, as the youngest receptionist to receive the Student of the Year.



DENIM SANDS

Denim Sands is Mvskoke, Kiowa, Cherokee and is of the Wind Clan. He is the son of Misty and Owen Sands, and the grandson of Jeannie Sands and the late LaRue Hall. He is a sophomore at Glenpool High School. He plays first base and pitches for the Warriors. Denim was recently named to the 5A-3 All District First Team as a pitcher. Glenpool had it's best season in 19 years, accumulating 21 wins.



CLASSROOM TRAINING

NATURAL GAS PROGRAM

Students may earn monthly stipends and tuition/book assistance (up to \$1500 for tuition and up to \$400 for books, per semester).

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a Muscogee (Creek) citizen
- Must reside on The Muscogee Nation Reservation
- Must be enrolled in 12+ credit hours of Natural Gas Compression courses at OSUIT (Okmulgee)

CONTACT US:

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APPLICATION DATES:

- ☑ **FALL** JULY 20 - SEPT. 5
- ☑ **SPRING** NOV. 20 - JAN. 5
- ☑ **SUMMER** MAR. 20 - MAY 5

APPLICATION LINK: https://eforms.mcn-nsn.gov/lincdoc/doc/run/muscogeeh/ET_Application



Office of Environmental Services

CURBSIDE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Friday June 2, 2023 / 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*** (1) Must either bring Creek citizenship card or (2) proof of being a resident of Okmulgee County such as bringing a current utility bill**

OES Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
WILL ACCEPT the following items:

- ✓ **Automotive products:** antifreeze, fluids, motor oil, oil filters, gasoline, polish and waxes (NO battery acid)
- ✓ **Paint products:** oil-based, latex and spray paints, caulk, wood preservative, wood stain, paint thinners and paint strippers
- ✓ **Other household chemicals:** toilet bowl cleaner, shower/tile cleaner, carpet cleaner, rust remover and more
- ✓ **Lawn care chemicals:** bug repellent, fertilizers, flea & tick repellent, fumigators, herbicides, insecticides, mosquito fogger, pesticides, rodenticides, stump remover

OES Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
WILL NOT ACCEPT the following items:

- ☒ **NO COMMERCIAL WASTE**
- ☒ **Electronic waste:** answering machines, calculators, cameras, CD/DVD players, cell phones, pagers, holiday lights, modems, monitors, printers, radios, scanners, microwaves, etc.
- ☒ **Miscellaneous:** any type of batteries, ballasts, fluorescent bulbs, tires, cooking oil and grease, Freon cylinders or compressed gas cylinders, home fire extinguishers, mercury thermometers and thermostats, nail polish, aerosols, unused ammunition and unused fireworks

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
RECYCLE CENTER
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Okmulgee, OK 74447
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 918-549-2580



IN MEMORIAM



ARTHUR KINCAID JAMES

Arthur Kincaid James was born March 15, 1945 and departed from the world on Monday April 10, 2023. He was known as Art, Uncle Art or Katv to family. He was born to Elizabeth (Tecumseh) & Jesse ‘jp’ James in Ft. Defiance, AZ on the Navajo reservation where his father was a Post Master. He had one sister, Jessie “Pauline” James. His grandparents were Ida & Houston Tecumseh & Lucy & John James whose Euchee name was (Zon Go Tee Tay-means someone sitting off to the side of the road watching). Art graduated Will Rogers High School and according to his niece Tricia’s beliefs – he was one of the original Greasers. Art was enrolled Mvskoke, but also Yuchi & Choctaw. He was member of the Polecat Ceremonial Ground and Euchee Chapter of Native American Church. He enjoyed attending powwows and stomp dances & visiting with all the family. He loved taking pictures and video recording. He also was a member of the Eastgate Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Art served as a veteran of the U.S. Army and served as Radio Mechanic in Vietnam and received three Bronze Service Stars, Nat’l Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, he was a Marksman (Rifle), and received an Honorable Discharge. When he returned home, he married Nicole Marguerite Boyd and later Gladys Robinson. Although he never had any children, he had his niece Cheri Sherrells and her children were like his grandchildren, great grandchildren & even great great granddaughter. He had close relationships with cousins, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews.

Art was a hard worker and upon returning home from Vietnam he gained employment at Telex where he worked for several years. Later, he was a driver for Standby Personnel and also did janitorial services. Art loved radio, music, live music & making friends wherever he went. He was a talented drummer & played drums at the Vegas Club, Brass Rail Lounge, Chuck’s 300 Club, Dollhouse & various country & western bars around Tulsa, Eufaula, and Hannah. He was the original Indian Elvis & also was a singer and played in various bands at other clubs, restaurants, nursing homes, weddings, family reunions, and at his niece Tricia’s Indian art markets with his friends Joe, Barbara West, Jim Rayburn & Doug Simpson.

Art’s greatest responsibility & accomplishment was to be a caregiver for his beautiful mother Elizabeth Tecumseh James who was widowed since 1960. After his divorce, he moved in with her to keep her company around the clock. He kept her safe, drove her, came home from work on his lunch or dinner break nearly every day to eat with her. Together they enjoyed taking in stray cats he spoiled, helping her with yard work for her flowers, taking her to visit family, especially her sister Lahoma who lived nearby, picking pecans out of the yard and collecting music & radio memorabilia. He especially looked forward to the Tecumseh family reunions where several family members played musical instruments and sang together at the lake or Lahoma & Wendel’s home in Catoosa. He is survived by his niece Cheri Haney, his grandchildren Tricia Fields Alexander & Hinhan Ska Haney. His great grandchildren Serena (Riley) Irons, Jacob Todd, Ryan

& Katie Alexander and one great great granddaughter Eden Rose Irons. He will be missed dearly by his last two cat kids – Pearl & Roy D. Mercer.



MARY HARJO

Mary Ann Harjo passed away in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at the age of 76 years old.

Mary Ann was the daughter of John & Lizzie (Lowe) Yargee, and was born on February 1, 1947 in Holdenville, Oklahoma. She was brought up in the Horn-town and Ragtown areas. She attended Moss schools and the Eufaula Boarding School. She was married to Jacob Harjo and traveled for several years following his military career. She lived eleven years in Oklahoma City and worked at a hospital, before moving back to Holdenville in 1992. She attended First Indian Baptist Church of Holdenville. She enjoyed sewing, and loved making traditional Indian dance wear. She loved caring for her grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John & Lizzie Yargee, an infant daughter, one grandson, Stormy Siah Yargee, sister Wanda Jean Yargee Moses, and brother Lymon Yargee.

She is survived by two sons, Tony Yargee and financé Nona Cloud of Wewoka, and Alex Lee Harjo of Holdenville. She is also survived by eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren, two brothers, Amon Yargee of Weleetka and Thomas R. Yargee of Wewoka, nieces and nephews, other relatives, and many friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, 1:00 p.m. at the Fisher Funeral Home-Lillye Chapel. She was laid to rest at Yeager Cemetery. Rev. Paul Fixico and Rev. Houston Tiger were the officiating ministers. Pallbearers were Wesley Yargee, Phelan Yargee, Cody Yargee, Lymon Yargee Jr., Cheyenne Yargee, and Micco Moses. Honorary Pallbearers were Cuba Yargee, Frisco Yargee, Alex Yargee, and Eli Yargee.

The wake service was held Friday evening, April 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Fisher Funeral Home Chapel.

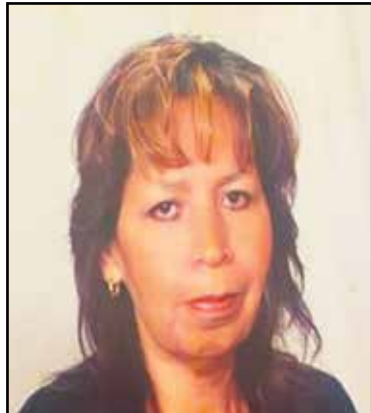
On behalf of Mary Ann “Yargee” Harjo, her family would like to thank Fisher Funeral Home, Lillye Chapel and staff, Pastors Paul Fixico and Houston Tiger and all the ladies who helped prepare and serve meals. And to each and every one that donated food, flowers, or words of encouragement.



JESSE SPIKE

Jesse P. “Spike” Colbert, Jr passed away peacefully on April 30th, 2023, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Spike was born August 6, 1937, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was a citizen of Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Spike was a proud member of the American Mason Society and an avid fisherman. He is survived by his children and spouses, Marty and Darla

Colbert, Gayla and Scott Rowe, Dayna and Tony Lee, Jesse Colbert, and brother Charles and sister Connie. There are seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren that will miss his stories and sense of humor. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Janet; his parents and five siblings. For anyone interested in honoring Jesse, the family requests donations be made to Clarehouse, 7617 S. Mingo Road, Tulsa, Ok 74133. We cannot thank them enough for the outstanding care he received in his final days.



DEBBIE KAY STARR

Deborah Kay Starr was born on December 10, 1957, to Edward and Dicey Barnett. Debbie passed away on the morning of April 15, 2023, in Tulsa, OK. Debbie loved spending time with her family and watching her grandchildren play sports. She loved spending time with her mom and making sure she was taken care of. Debbie loved to travel, anytime ready for a roadtrip. She was an OKC Thunder fan for sure, she always tried to watch every game, unless they were losing. Go Thunder! She was a very easy-going person, loved talking and laughing with everyone, especially Debbie Bear. She always had a positive attitude, was very kind-hearted and also very inquisitive.

She is survived by her children, Amy and husband Michol Jordan of Coweta, OK., Menewa Starr of Chouteau, OK., Chutto and wife Heaven Starr of Coweta, OK., and Tara Starr of Chouteau, OK. Grand kids: Blayton Starr, Xander Jordan, Myrical Starr, Jacob Starr, Liam Starr, Dovie Flanagan, Jayda Jordan, Noah Starr, and Yvhv Miller. Great grandkids: Nakotah and Nakiah Starr. She is also survived by her Mother Dicey Barnett and Brothers Daniel Barnett, Bruce Barnett, Thomas Barnett and Tyrone Barnett and Sisters Karen Barnett and Elaine Barnett. She is preceded in Death by her Father Edward Barnett, Sister Thomasena Barnett and one niece Shaunday Little. To send flowers to the family in memory of Debbie Starr, please use Pickin’ Petals Florist @ 918-850-9317.



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LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:)
JOZIAH HERNANDEZ CROOK,)
Minor Child.)

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
MAR 17 P 3:46
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

Case No. GD-2022-47

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON
APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL CO-GUARDIANS

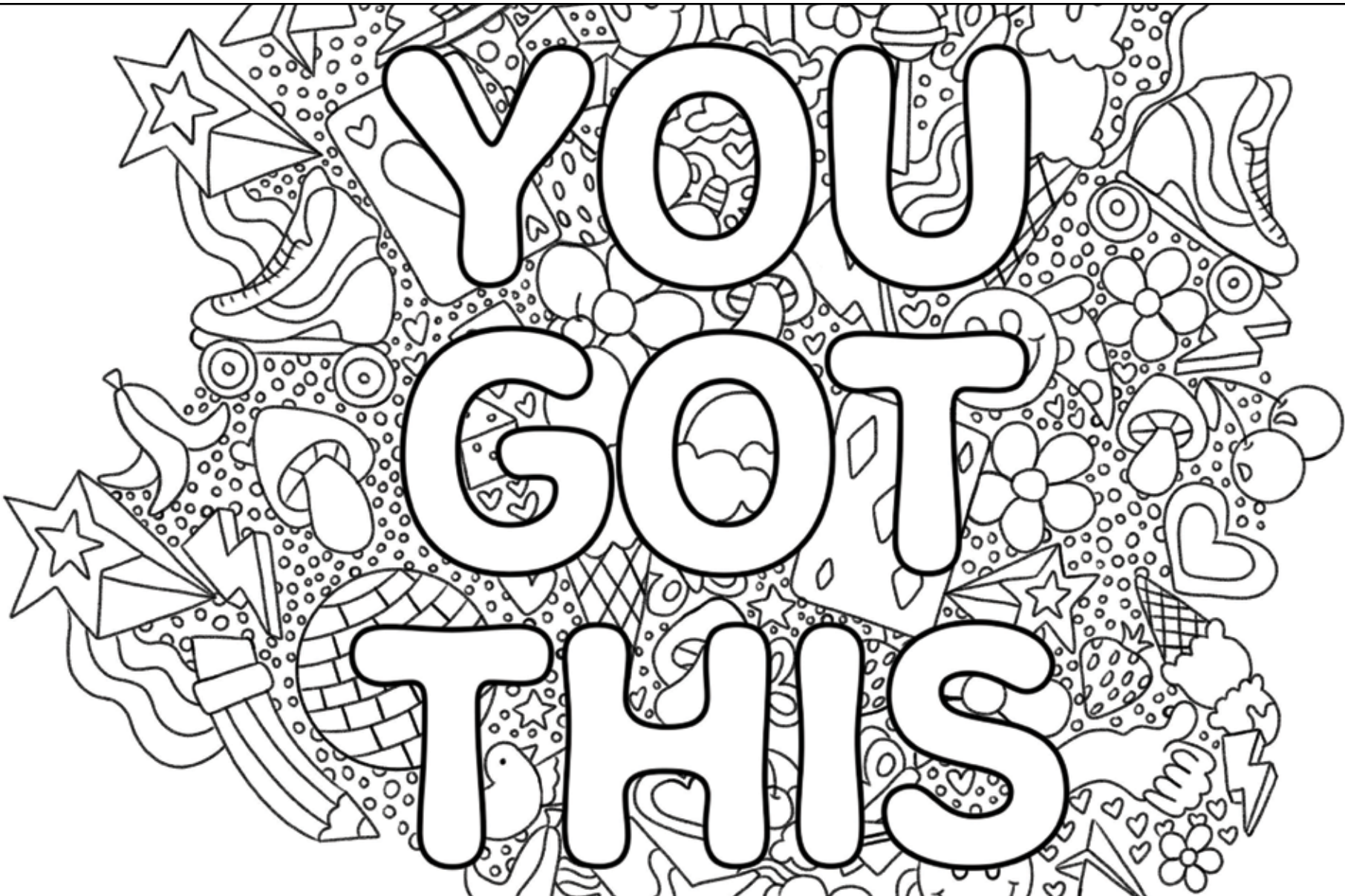
Notice is hereby given that Debra Alexander and Buckey Crook have filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a petition requesting their appointment as General Co-Guardians of the person and property of Joziah Hernandez Crook.

And that the 23rd day of May, 2023 at the hour of 9:00 o'clock, a.m., in courtroom of the Muscogee Creek Nation District Court has been appointed as the time and place for hearing the petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why such appointment should not be made.


DATED this 17th day of March, 2023.



JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION



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